

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 7 and 10-17 have been previously cancelled.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are currently pending.

Please amend Claim 1, Claim 2, Claim 8 and Claim 9 as indicated.

Claim 1 (currently amended). A treating agent for use in the Bayer process in filtration of caustic sodium aluminate solution, said treating agent comprising: a blend of 200-300 ppm of starch and ~~up to~~ from about 5 ppm to about 10 ppm of another polysaccharide.

Claim 2 (currently amended). The treating agent of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of pullulan, dextran, alginate, zooglan, lactan or mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (pending). The treating agent of claim 2 wherein the treating agent is dextran.

Claim 4 (pending). The treating agent of claim 3 further incorporating a filter aid for assisting the filtration of the caustic sodium aluminate solution.

Claim 5 (pending). The treating agent of claim 4 wherein the filter aid is calcium aluminate.

Claim 6 (pending). The treating agent of claim 5 wherein the filter aid is a 12% aqueous suspension of calcium aluminate.

Claim 7 (cancelled).

Claim 8 (currently amended) The treating agent of claim 1 comprising ~~up to~~ about 5 ppm polysaccharide.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The treating agent of claim 1 & wherein the comprising about 10 ppm polysaccharide to starch ratio is between 9:1 and 1:9.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

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Claim 11(cancelled).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (cancelled).

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (cancelled).